(d) The Prime Minister held discussions with the Chief Ministers of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry on issues relating to Cauvery waters on 17-2-1992. The States agreed to facilitate expeditious completion of all proceeding before the Tribunal.

Ground Water exploration

1614. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has drawn up any ground water exploration programmes in various States during the Eighth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof : and

(c) the details of the areas likely to be covered in such States ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under its Exploratory Drilling Programme, the Central Ground Water Board has drawn up a plan to drill 5330 boreholes in various States and Union Territories, during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) A total of 330 boreholes are likely to be drilled in bouldary rock formation areas in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. About 2000 boreholes are likely to be drilled in alluvial rock formation areas covering largely the States of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur and Punjab. About 3000 boreholes are likely to be drilled in hard rock areas covering the States of Andhra Pradesh Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Atrocities of SC/ST women in Assam

1615. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of atrocities on women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were reported during the last year in Assam ; and

(b) if so, the details of such cases and the action taken against the guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government of Assam and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grievances of SC migrants

1616. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Estimates Committee made positive recommendations twice during 1978-79 and 1980-81 that the long standing grievances of the Scheduled Caste migrants should be urgently removed by enacting a separate legislation for according them the necessary recognition ;

(b) if so, the reasons for which Government are repeating the same old point of linking this matter with the question of 'comprehensive' revision of SC and ST orders when a separate legislation could be enacted earlier (1990) for recognitaion of SC converts to Buddhism as SCs ; and

(c) whether a separate legislation would be brought forward during the current session for the SC migrants also ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In accordance with Article 341(2) of the Constitution, after due consultation with the State Governments/U.T. Administrations inclusion of any community in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes can be considered. Such communities should also fulfil the criterion of extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability. The Scheduled Castes converts to Buddhism are deemed to be members of